



JOHN LINDER

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FOR GEORGIA

Summer 2007

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TOWN HALL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

I will be hosting a series of town hall meetings in August so that we can discuss the issues facing our nation. I certainly hope you will be able to attend.

These town hall meetings give us an opportunity to listen and learn about the thoughts and interests of our friends and neighbors on a wide range of policy issues confronting our neighborhoods, towns and nation. Staying in contact with everyone that I represent in Congress is a priority for me. The many meetings around the District, including the telephone town hall meetings this year, have provided a great opportunity for me to hear from many of you.

The dates and times of the upcoming town hall meetings are as follows:

Saturday, August 25, 2007

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

**Walton County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Room**

**303 South Hammond Drive
Monroe, GA 30655**

Saturday, August 25, 2007

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**Barrow County Administration Annex
233 East Broad Street
Winder, GA 30680**

Monday, August 27, 2007

5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

**Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
Auditorium**

**75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

I hope you will be able to attend, and I look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

John Linder
Member of Congress

2007 FAIR TAX UPDATE

The FairTax continues to move forward with record-breaking success. On January 4, 2007, I reintroduced H.R. 25, the FairTax, in the 110th Congress as a bipartisan bill. Never before has the FairTax been introduced with this high level of support on the first day of a Congress.

In only seven months, the FairTax has amassed more support than it has in any previous Congress. With 63 co-sponsors to date, the FairTax is the most widely supported fundamental tax reform proposal in over 30 years, and this support continues to grow. In fact, since June, we have added three first-time co-sponsors. I believe that this record-breaking success is evidence of the hard work of the grassroots movement afoot.

The enthusiasm for the FairTax is growing not only in the halls of Congress, but also across the entire nation. Hundreds of thousands of FairTax supporters across the country are voicing their support. FairTax rallies held in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina have been attended by thousands.

The FairTax is the next grassroots revolution, but it is a huge idea that will take a great deal of passion to enact. We all know that our current income tax code is complicated, oppressive, and broken, but not everyone knows that the FairTax will free them from this intrusive burden. Together, if we remain firm in our commitment and dedicated to the cause, we will make the FairTax a reality.

If you would like to learn more about the FairTax or would like to see evidence of the growing momentum in support of this movement, I would encourage you to visit my FairTax website at <http://linderfairtax.house.gov>.

HEALTH CARE

Recently, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007, more commonly known as SCHIP. I was among the minority that voted against this bill.

Let me be clear: I support SCHIP. I support our children. And I wanted to responsibly reauthorize the SCHIP Program. However, this bill expanded the reach of a Federal program far beyond the goal of providing health coverage for low-income children.

When Congress passed SCHIP in 1997, the aim was to insure the children of low-income families who did not meet the requirements for Medicaid. Instead, H.R. 3162 not only expands coverage to illegal immigrants, it also expands coverage to adults as old as 25 with no children; and allows states to lift the income level for eligibility to the point that a family of four with a household income of \$82,600, which is 400 percent of the federal poverty level, is now eligible for taxpayer-funded health insurance.

This bill is the first step toward national health care under the false premise that it helps our children. Nothing could be further from the truth.

ENERGY

The United States is too dependent on foreign sources of oil. With our vast amounts of recoverable, domestic energy in the form of natural gas, crude oil, and coal, our economy should not be controlled by politically unstable areas of the world. Energy independence is not just an energy or environmental issue; it is a national security issue as well.

In 1961, the U.S. committed itself to putting a man on the Moon, and by 1969, we achieved our goal. Now, our new mission must be to become energy independent. We must encourage private enterprise to innovate and create new types of biomass and renewable fuels. Most importantly, we must focus on domestic energy growth and exploration, especially developing clean coal technologies. The U.S. is to coal what Saudi Arabia is to oil. Only when this great nation is energy independent will we be more secure and more economically prosperous.

21ST CENTURY WATER POLICY

America's impending shortage of clean, affordable water has been an issue that has concerned me since the 1970s. The time is right for us to take great strides in the direction of a real, workable solution. I believe that we must start thinking boldly and with a renewed focus on a long-term vision. The goal must be a roadmap to get us to the next generation with enough clean water for everyone in this nation.

We currently do not have a water policy for our nation, and there is very little communication or coordination among agencies on infrastructure projects and policy initiatives. With the goal of focusing our nation on this policy issue, I introduced H.R. 135, the "21st Century Water Commission Act of 2007," earlier this year. I introduced this same legislation in the three previous Congresses, and the bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives last Congress by an overwhelmingly bi-partisan vote of 402-22. This year, the bill currently has 21 co-sponsors.

H.R. 135 creates a 21st Century Water Commission that will bring together a number of top-ranked water experts to form an advisory board. These members will be made up of representatives from the private sector, state and local governments, and the Federal government. The Commission will be authorized to consider all available technologies for increasing water supply efficiently and effectively while safeguarding the environment, including recommending a means of capturing excess water for future droughts. The Commission will also place a particular emphasis on respecting the role of the states in adjudicating, administering and regulating their own water rights and uses.

In addition, I recently joined four colleagues in the House of Representatives to form a new, bi-partisan Congressional Water Caucus. I am co-chairing the Water Caucus with Representative Jim Costa (D-CA), Representative George Radanovich (R-CA), Representative Bart Stupak (D-MI), and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power Chairwoman Grace Napolitano (D-CA).

It is my goal to have the bi-partisan Congressional Water Caucus give Members of Congress, who are committed to the goals of promoting dialogue about water issues, a meaningful educational venue and forum. The aim will be to provide timely, scientific information and dialogue about water resources and water use to advance the science and knowledge that are necessary to deal with these water challenges. To date, 27 Members have joined the Water Caucus.

I am not a water policy expert and I do not yet know what the exact solutions should be. But I do know that we need to ensure an adequate supply of fresh water for U.S. citizens, secure a sufficient water supply for both urban and rural areas, consider all available technologies for increasing water supply efficiently, while safeguarding the environment, and implement strategies to improve water use efficiencies and reduce water waste. This is a real environmental issue that truly affects human survival and the stakes are high.



MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINATION PROCESS

I recently had a wonderful opportunity to meet with a group of young men and women preparing to leave for the United States Service Academies. These 16 students were eager and ready to serve their country and I am certainly honored that they will represent the Seventh Congressional District at their respective academies.

I often say that one of the greatest privileges I have as a Congressman is nominating young men and women to the United States Service Academies. Every year, many rising seniors apply with my office for a Congressional Nomination to obtain one of the greatest educations in the nation. It is an important decision to attend one of the academies that prepare America's young men and women to become professional officers. There will be a lot of hard work, early mornings and late nights, and they will be held to the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty.

Even though we are in the heat of summer, it is never too early to inquire about this amazing opportunity. My online office has a summary of nomination requirements, frequently asked questions about the nomination process and important deadlines, and a copy of the application form.

If you would like to find out more about the service academies or the nomination process, please feel free to review the information at the following website <http://linder.house.gov/academy> or contact Annie Valenty, of my staff, at 770-232-3005, extension 11.

SEVENTH DISTRICT ONLINE OFFICE

I have launched a new version of my web site at <http://linder.house.gov> in an effort to create a more usable site that benefits citizens of the Seventh Congressional District looking for resources, information and services. The goal of this site is to host a true online office that provides resources and services to constituents, students and those interested in legislative activities in Congress. This site allows me to continuously update information for you – empowering my constituents, improving our democracy and providing more efficient services.

I believe that the site will enhance online communication with you by providing easy access to information updated on a monthly, weekly, and daily basis. The site has prioritized regularly requested items that will now be more accessible and should more logically provide you with efficient web-delivery of the services my office can offer you. I certainly hope you will use this site to locate resources and to contact me at any time.

CONTACT INFORMATION

I always welcome comments from the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District. Please make note of my mailing address and phone numbers, or send a note through my online office.

MAILING ADDRESS

1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1007

ONLINE OFFICE

<http://linder.house.gov/contactjohn>

GEORGIA OFFICE

(770) 232-3005
(770) 232-2909 (fax)

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

(202) 225-4272
(202) 225-4696 (fax)

OUTREACH PROGRAM

If you would like to meet with a member of my staff regarding difficulties you are experiencing with the Federal government, please contact my District Office at (770) 232-3005. My staff is also available to assist you at constituent outreach locations throughout the Seventh Congressional District at the locations and times below:

Barrow County

Piedmont Regional Library
189 Bell View Street
Winder, GA 30680

Sept 13 (10 am-12 pm)
Oct 11 (10 am-12 pm)
Nov 8 (10 am-12 pm)

Gwinnett County

Grayson Library
700 Grayson Highway
Grayson, GA 30017

Sept 5 (4 pm-6 pm)
Oct 3 (4 pm-6 pm)
Nov 7 (4 pm-6 pm)

Gwinnett/Forsyth

Suwanee Library
361 Main Street
Suwanee, GA 30024

Sept 13 (5:30 pm-7:30 pm)
Oct 11 (5:30 pm-7:30 pm)
Nov 8 (5:30 pm-7:30 pm)

Newton County

Newton County Library
7116 Floyd Street, N.E.
Covington, GA 30014

Sept 19 (1 pm -3 pm)
Oct 17 (1 pm -3 pm)
Nov 14 (1 pm -3 pm)

Walton County

Monroe-Walton Library
217 West Spring Street
Monroe, GA 30655

Sept 19 (10 am-12 pm)
Oct 17 (10 am-12 pm)
Nov 14 (10 am-12 pm)